Clearance of customs prosecution cases

*131. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI;
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether in view of a very large number of prosecution cases pertaining! to customs duty evasion pending in var-\ious courts of law. Government propose fo Set P special courts in consultation with the State Governments with a view to clearing th 3 cases expeditiously; and

(b) if so, what progress has been made in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA); (a) There is no proposal to set up special courts for economic offences exclusively for dealing with the customs duty evasion cases.

(b) Does not arise

Impact of new import/export policy

*132. SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Mhrstcr of COMMENCE be ple?sed to tate;

(a) whether Government are aware that by permitting the import of copra, coconut oil, rubber, rubber products, clove, nutmeg, ciir and coir products under OGL following the announcement of the new, Impdrt|Export Policy, there has been a decline in the prices of these cash crops to the detriment of the agricultural economy of the States;

(b) 'whether the State Governments have made any requests td the' Centra! •Government • to withdraw permission for such imports;, and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER -OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER . 0F COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI):
(a) to (c) Under the Import and Export Policy for Aprl 1988—March 1991, import of copra, coconut oil and natural rubber continues to be canalised as was in the earlier policy. There ;s no change in Import Policy for rubber products, ^. coir and coir products. Only cloves and nutmeg have been shifted from th$_e$ Canalised List k) the Open General Licence List. No request has so far been received by the Government for withdrawal of j permission for impolrt of these items. At present there is no proposal for change in the import policy for these items.

Plan to prevent the spread *ot* desert area

* 13 3 . PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware trnt ten States and the Union Territory of Delhi are likely to miss normal mon soons due to massive depletion of forests cover on the country's major mi-ntainr, '-'-ke the Himalayas, Aravalis and Western Ghats; if so, what steps Go vernment propose to take check such de forestation;

(b) what steps are being taken to prevent the spread of natural arid zones in Thar Desert in Rajasthan and the Ray-alaseenfa region of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government contemplate a special plan to prevent the spread of desert area in the above mentioned pla ces; and

(d) if so, what are the details of such a special plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):
(a) There is JJQ scientific evidence to stablish that depletion of forest cover causes disturbance to normal monsoons.

£0) A number of measures such as afforestation, pasture development, shelter belts, sand-dune stabilisation and water * conservation have been taken up under the Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Are Programme, Integrated Rural "Development Programme ' and Na-